**Teesta hydro electric project**

1549. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the price escalation in the Teesta hydro electric and irrigation project in northern part of West Bengal;

(b) whether the issue came up at any Government meeting in recent past; and

(c) if so, what was the outcome and whether the Centre has released its share of the proejct?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) Government of India has, on October 30, 2003, approved setting up of the Teesta Low Dam Stage-III Hydro Electric Power (132 MW) in West Bengal in the Central Sector by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) at an estimated completion cost of Rs. 768.92 crores (December, 2002 price level). The project does not have any irrigation component. An amount of Rs. 106.73 crores has been released by Government of India till date as equity. As the project, which is scheduled for commissioning in March 2007, is under various stages of construction and an expenditure of only Rs. 59.46 crores has been incurred up to June 2004, it is too early to determine whether there is any price escalation.

**Integrated national energy policy**

1550. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to formulate an integraed national energy policy including feedstock for use in power and energy fertilizer;

(b) whether coal gasification technology is being considered as a major option for fertilizer and power sector,

(c) if so, the detailed planning for the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) An Expert Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission to formulate an Integrated Energy Policy.

So far as feedstock policy fertilizer sector is concerned it has been decided that the preferred feedstock for manufacture of urea units will be natural gas/LNG. Further, policy has been formulated for conversion of existing non gas based urea unit to natural gas/LNG.

(b) to (d) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) have decided to jointly set up a 100 MW Integrated Coal Gasification Combined Cycle Demonstration unit as a pilot Research & Development (R&D) project.

**Agreement between REC, PGC and NTPC for electrification of villages**

1551. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rural Electrification Corporation has signed an agreement with Power Grid Corporation and NTPC for taking up the electrification of villages on an ambitious scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the areas to be covered by the agreement have been finalized and if so, by when the work in this regard is likely to be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has signed MoUs with Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC), Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in order to make their services available to states for executing projects of rural electrification.

(b) In accordance with the MoUs concluded, these CPSUs have agreed to render their services in the formulation and implementation of rural electrification projects to assist various State Governments/State Power Utilities. It is for the State Govt./Utilities to take a decision regarding the extent to which they would like to utilize the services of these CPSUs.